



Table 12. Instructions for Completion of the Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Form (CDC 57.120) ([Tables of Instructions List](#))

Data Field	Instructions for Data Collection
Facility ID #	The NHSN-assigned facility ID will be auto-entered by the computer.
Event #	Event ID number will be auto-entered by the computer.
Patient ID #	Required. Enter the alphanumeric patient ID number. This is the patient identifier assigned by the hospital and may consist of any combination of numbers and/or letters.
Social Security #	Optional. Enter the 9-digit numeric patient Social Security Number.
Secondary ID #	Optional. Enter the alphanumeric ID number assigned by the facility.
Patient name	Optional. Enter the last, first, and middle name of the patient.
Gender	Required. Check Female or Male to indicate the gender of the patient.
Date of birth	Required. Record the date of the patient birth using this format: MM/DD/YYYY.
Ethnicity	Optional.
Hispanic or Latino	If patient is Hispanic or Latino, check this box.
Not Hispanic or Not Latino	If patient is not Hispanic or not Latino, check this box.
Race	Optional. Check all the boxes that apply to identify the patient's race.
Event type	Required. Enter SSI.
Date of event	Required. The date when the first clinical evidence of the SSI appeared or the date the specimen used to make or confirm the diagnosis was collected, whichever comes first. Enter date of this event using this format: MM/DD/YYYY.
NHSN procedure code	Required. Enter the appropriate NHSN procedure code. For detailed instructions on how to report NHSN operative procedures, see Chapter 9 of NHSN Patient Safety Component Manual. NOTE: An SSI cannot be “linked” to an operative procedure unless that procedure has already been added to NHSN. If the procedure was previously added, and the “Link to Procedure” button is clicked, the fields pertaining to the operation will be auto-entered by the computer.
Date of procedure	Required. Enter date using this format: MM/DD/YYYY.
ICD-9-CM procedure code	Optional. The ICD-9-CM code may be entered here instead of (or in addition to) the NHSN Procedure Code. If the ICD-9-CM code is entered, the NHSN code will be auto-entered by the computer. If the NHSN code is entered first, you will have the option to select the appropriate ICD-9-CM code. In either case, it is optional to select the ICD-9-CM code. The only allowed ICD-9-CM codes are shown in Table 1: NHSN Operative Procedure Category Mappings to ICD-9-CM Codes in the Surgical Site Infection Event chapter (Chapter 9 of



Data Field	Instructions for Data Collection
	NHSN Patient Safety Component Manual).
Outpatient Procedure	Required. Check Y if this operative procedure was performed on an NHSN outpatient; otherwise check N.
MDRO infection	Required. Enter “Yes”, if the pathogen is being followed for Infection Surveillance in the MDRO/CDI Module in that location as part of your Monthly Reporting Plan: MRSA, MSSA (MRSA/MSSA), VRE, CephR- <i>Klebsiella</i> , CRE-E. coli, CRE- <i>Klebsiella</i> MDR- <i>Acinetobacter</i> or <i>C. difficile</i> . If the pathogen for this infection happens to be an MDRO but your facility is not following the Infection Surveillance in the MDRO/CDI Module in your Monthly Reporting Plan, answer “No” to this question.
Location	Required. Enter the patient care area where the patient was assigned in the postoperative period. Inpatient or outpatient locations are allowed, but Operating Room locations are not allowed.
Date admitted to facility	Required. Enter date patient admitted to facility using this format: MM/DD/YYYY. If a patient is readmitted with a previously unreported SSI associated with an operative procedure performed during a previous admission, enter the date of admission of the facility stay in which the operative procedure was performed. An NHSN Inpatient is defined as a patient whose date of admission to the healthcare facility and the date of discharge are <u>different</u> calendar days. When determining a patient’s admission dates to both the facility and specific inpatient location, the NHSN user must take into account all such days, including any days spent in an inpatient location as an “observation” patient before being officially admitted as an inpatient to the facility, as these days contribute to exposure risk. Therefore, all such days are included in the counts of admissions and patient days for the facility and specific location, and facility and admission dates must be moved back to the first day spent in the inpatient location.
Event details specific event SSI	Required. Check the appropriate level of SSI from the list <input type="checkbox"/> Superficial incisional primary (SIP) <input type="checkbox"/> Superficial incisional secondary (SIS) <input type="checkbox"/> Deep incisional primary (DIP) <input type="checkbox"/> Deep incisional secondary (DIS) <input type="checkbox"/> Organ/space: <input type="text"/> (indicate specific site code from Table 2. Specific Sites of Organ/Space SSI in the Surgical Site Infection Event chapter (Chapter 9 of NHSN Patient Safety Component Manual)
Event details: SSI Specify criteria used	Required. Check each of the elements of the definition that were used to identify the specific type of SSI. Specific Organ/space event types have their own unique criteria which must be met. They are found in Chapter 17 of the Patient Safety Component Manual: CDC/NHSN Surveillance Definition of Healthcare-Associated Infection and Criteria for Specific Types of Infections in the Acute Care Setting.
Event details: Detected	Required. Check A if SSI was identified before the patient was discharged from the



Data Field	Instructions for Data Collection
	<p>facility following the operation.</p> <p>Check P if SSI was identified during post-discharge surveillance. Include as P those SSI identified by another facility (i.e., patient with SSI was admitted to a facility other than the one in which the operation was performed).</p> <p>Check R if SSI was identified due to patient readmission to the facility where the operation was done.</p>
Event Details: Secondary bloodstream infection	Required. Check Y if there is a culture-confirmed bloodstream infection (BSI) and a related healthcare-associated infection at the surgical site, otherwise check N.
Event details: Died	Required. Check Y if patient died during the hospitalization, otherwise check N.
Event Details: SSI contributed to death	Conditionally required. If patient died, check Y if the SSI contributed to death, otherwise check N.
Event Details: Discharge date	Optional. Enter date patient discharged from facility using this format: MM/DD/YYYY. If a patient is readmitted with a previously unreported SSI associated with an operative procedure performed in a previous admission, enter the date of discharge of the facility stay in which the operative procedure was performed.
Event Details: Pathogens identified	Required. Enter Y if Pathogen Identified, N if otherwise. If Y, specify organism name on reverse. See Table 2a above for instructions.
Custom fields and labels	<p>Optional. Up to two date fields, two numeric fields, and 10 alphanumeric fields may be customized for local use.</p> <p>NOTE: Each Custom Field must be set up in the Facility/Custom Options section of the application before the field can be selected for use.</p>
Comments	Optional. Enter any information on the event.